



History

The Aviation Research Development, and Engineering Center (AVRDEC) was established in 1986. This brought together the rotorcraft science and technology efforts with the engineering expertise to create an organization under an Executive Director responsible for the development of rotorcraft technology for the Department of Defense (DoD) and engineering to support the fielded fleet of Army Aviation Aircraft. The AVRDEC was also responsible for the airworthiness release process in support of the Army. The organization elements of the AVRDEC have been involved from the early days of rotary wing aircraft through the fielding of today's Apache, Blackhawk, Chinook, Kiowa Warrior, and the development of the Comanche for the 21st century.

The Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (MRDEC) was established in 1985. As a result, the full spectrum of technologies required to design, develop, test, and support missile, rocket, and high energy laser systems was brought together



Photograph courtesy of Ken Crouch

The MRDEC was also responsible for one-stop shopping technical support to project managers of these systems. The technical expertise of the MRDEC is present in every Army missile and rocket system currently in the field, and is being applied to provide the Army with cutting edge missile and rocket capability into the 21st century.

On October 1, 1999 the two proud organizations, with a long history of support to the warfighter, became one provisionally. This will only enhance the quality of dedication and support to our true customer, the men and women of the Armed forces of the United States who count on us to give them the technology to decisively win wherever they are called on to defend the nation and its interests.